

# Socorro Amateur Radio Association

"All the news that fits, we print"

SARA News

www.socorroara.org

April 2008

## MEETINGS

### The March Meeting

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm by Vern Leavitt

Al Braun introduced our guest speaker: Stan Bryn

Stan Bryn restores World War II Battleship radios; he has done 35 in the last 4 years. He had been stationed on the battleship USS Alabama during the war, after the US realized they would need radios on ships, on shore, and in planes to be able to communicate during the war. The Navy received their first new radio in 1941. He brought a tube and a radio from that era, and presented an excellent history of his experiences. After the meeting, he amazed all the members by turning on the radio, and it worked quite well.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- April 19 & 20 - Tour of Socorro, please keep dates open. Will advise when more information is received.
- March 13 - Skywarn training at NMMI in Roswell from 1330-1800
- Radcom has been notified re: Hamfest

### REPORTS:

**Minutes** were accepted in the secretary's absence as posted on the web.

- **Treasurer's report** read.
- **LEPC** - Bear advised there is a meeting tomorrow, March 13. The plan went to the state without the Hazardous Materials annex, so has been returned for that.
- **ARES** - Glenn & Jon stated the HF State-wide Net is working well. Bill has volunteered as Fire Service in order to have admittance to the building and be covered by their insurance. He

recommended all ARES members volunteer as well for the same reasons. Apparently there has not ever been a test to FEMA, as the HF is statewide, but it will be presented to ARES. There was also a desire expressed to be able to monitor 60 meters at some point in the future.

- **TARA** - Seth has been experiencing power problems, so there was no net last week, and he will be out of town this week, hence no net this week. The shack should be online soon. Echolink has stalled since the student association has the funding, and there is a new officer every semester.

### OLD BUSINESS:

- **Insurance** - Gelper declined to provide a policy. Penny Lommen volunteered to research other sources. The ARRL quote was quite vague.

- **Repeaters** - Glenn & Dave Finley advised that the APRS repeater checked out very well. They removed the old -68 controllers from the mountain. There was some discussion as to what to put in their place, and the wishful thinking included a remote spectrum analyzer.

### NEW BUSINESS:

- **IRS** - Bill advised there is a requirement for a Non Profit to file Form 990-N annually, and so he will attempt to complete it online, as it is due by May 15.

- **HAM-COM 2008** - offering \$25 to put their banner on our web page for 3 months; and one club will be chosen to receive \$100. It is the

### SARA Repeater

The Socorro Amateur Radio Association supports a VHF repeater located on Socorro Peak immediately west of Socorro. The repeater and autopatch are "open" and the autopatch is accessed/terminated using "\*/#". Local emergency service can be reached by keying "911."

146.68 (-)

100 or 123 Hz required

123 Hz on output

- See You At The Meeting -

## - Have you used the SARA repeater today? -

biggest Hamfest in Texas. Information will be forwarded to TARA as well. Suggest all members click on the link daily.

### GOOD OF THE ORGANIZATION

McDonalds will be torn down and replaced, hopefully by June. It was voted to move the Saturday breaks to El Camino in the back room. Web page will need to be changed.

Adjourned at 8:41 pm

Minutes taken & transcribed by P. Riley  
Submitted by Vern Leavitt

### The April Meeting

Wednesday, April 9, 2008, in the Socorro County EOC, 198 Neel St. Gina Dello Russo will present a program on the health of the Rio Grande. Gina is an ecologist at the Bosque Del Apache National Wildlife Refuge

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### THE PRESIDENTS CORNER



How about that? Even if you stand very still, time just keeps marching on, and as of this writing, the nominating committee has yet to secure a volunteer to accept the nomination of President. It has however, with a little arm twisting, secured

#### Officers

President: Vern Leavitt - KD5UHB  
Vice President: Glenn Mauger - WB5OAF  
Secretary: David Johnson - KB5YIW  
Treasurer: Bill Brundage - NM5WB  
Past President: Ed Wood - KD5MFS  
SARA News Editor: David Johnson - KB5YIW

commitments for all of the other positions. They are as follows:

- President: Big Blank
- Vice President: Vern Leavitt
- Secretary: Dave Johnson
- Treasurer: Bill Brundage
- Past President: Glenn Mauger

Now as we all know, Ms Big Blank is not qualified to be a board member of our organization as she isn't now, nor will she ever be, a member in good standing. So what this means all you members in good standing is get busy and do some arm twisting of your own and get some that is qualified to step up and volunteer. Enough said.

For the April meeting I have secured Gina Dello Russo to present a program on the health of the Rio Grande. Gina is an ecologist at the Bosque Del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, and her program is very interesting, so you won't want to miss this one.

Reminder: The 2008 edition of the Tour of Socorro (mountain bike race) is scheduled for April 19 and 20. This year (contrary to last year) the circuit (Cerrillos del Coyote) race will be held on Saturday (4/19) and the South Baldy Hill Climb will be held the following day (Sunday). This means that all of us that are volunteering our communications expertise will need to keep these days in April available.

See you all at the meeting?

That's it for now, over and out.

Vern Leavitt  
KD5UHB

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### EVENTS

- **SARA Monthly Meeting**, April 9, 2008 in the Socorro County EOC, 198 Neel St.
- **Cerrillos del Coyote Mountain Bike Race (Saturday) and South Baldy Hill Climb (Sunday), April 19-20, 2008.** The Socorro Striders and Riders (SSR) will promote this mountain biking event again this year. SSR have asked us to help by providing radio support for both of these events. The course for the Cerrillos del Coyote Mountain

## - Encourage a friend to join SARA -

Bike Race and the SARA locations will be essentially the same as last year requiring approximately eight hams. The South Baldy Hill Climb, to be held on Sunday this year, will require two or three radio operators (one at the start and one at the finish with one trailing the last racer).

- **Save Our Bosque Task Force Clean-up** scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup>. Meet on Otero Rd. south
- **NM Section ARES & RACES HF Net**, April 6, April 20 and May 4, 2008, 18:00 hrs local (1:00 UTC) in the Socorro County EOC, 198 Neel St.
- **SARA Annual Meeting**, May 14, 2008. SARA bylaws stipulate that the annual meeting will be held, "at the time of the scheduled regular meeting in the month of May each year ..." (Art. III, sec. 2). For 2008 the Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 14, 2008 in the Socorro County Emergency Operations Center, 198 Neel Ave. It is at this meeting that officers will be elected for the 2008-09 year. It is important that we have a quorum for the meeting. Please plan on attending. If for any reason it is not possible for you to attend, please complete the attached proxy (or download a copy from: <http://www.socorroara.org/proxy.html>) and either give it to someone attending the Annual Meeting or send it to Socorro Amateur Radio Association, 722 N. California St., Socorro, NM 87801. The May *SARA News* will constitute the Notice of the Annual Meeting and will be timed to arrive at least 15 days before the meeting - a bit earlier than usual. The Notice of the Annual Meeting will include a complete listing of those eligible to vote at the meeting (Art. V, Sec. 1 of the bylaws) and the names of those nominated to serve as SARA officers for the next year.

### *Nets ---*

- Weekly ARES net at 20:00 hours local on Wednesdays on the SARA Repeater [146.68(-) w/ 100 Hz tone].
- NM Section ARES & RACES HF net — First and third Sundays of each month. The net provides a forum to discuss Amateur Radio support of all types of emergency

communications including MARS, SAR, CAP, public service events. The net begins at 18:30 hours local (1:00 zulu).

### *Gatherings, gatherings ---*

- SARA monthly meeting - SARA meetings are held, beginning at 19:30 hrs on the second Wednesday of each month (except December) in the Socorro County Emergency Operations Center, 198 Neel Ave.
- Everyone is invited to coffee every Saturday ~8:00 to 9:30 hrs at El Camino in the back room.

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## SARA NEWS

### **End of an Era (Temporarily)**

For years - since the demise of Socorro's Daylight Donuts - SARA members have congregated at the local McDonalds on Saturday mornings. Many of the ideas that have led to the growth of SARA's membership and activities have originated over a cup of coffee at these gatherings. Well the gatherings (and the ideas) won't change, but the venue has. McDonalds has decided to upgrade the Socorro facility and that means starting over by dismantling the building. In the meantime, members have arranged to meet at El Camino. Same time, different place.

### **THE "GROANER"**

KB5YIW was driving down the interstate when suddenly his 2 meter rig crackled with his call...Answering...he heard a fellow ham's urgent warning....."Hey Dave, just heard on the news that there's a car going down I-25 the wrong way, please be careful"!!

Dave replied,"Well I declare, it's not just one.....there's hundreds of them'!!!!!!!!!!

(adapted from: <http://www.hamuniverse.com/humor.html>)

## Join/Renew Your SARA Membership

Are you a member? When does your membership expire? If you are reading this from a newsletter sent to you via U.S. Mail, take a look at the mailing label. Your membership expiration date is listed on the bottom line of the label. Newsletters will continue to be sent for a month or so after expiration just in case you haven't had a chance to check your expiration date. If you do not receive your newsletter by mail you might check the membership list on the SARA web page. The address is <http://socorroara.org/members.html>.

If you are a member seeking to renew or a ham new to the Socorro area, joining SARA is easy and inexpensive. Download a membership application (from [www.socorroara.org/SARAform.html](http://www.socorroara.org/SARAform.html)) and send it with a check for \$15 (\$20 for family memberships) to: Socorro Amateur Radio Association, 722 N. California St., Socorro, NM 87801 or drop by the Socorro Radio Shack and say that you would like to join.

## Submissions to *SARA News*

Contributions and photographs related to SARA and amateur radio will be considered for inclusion in *SARA News*. Text should be of general interest to readers, and on the order of 200 to 300 words. Each month ads to buy, sell or trade may be included. The usual caveat applies, items must be ham related. Material will be included on a space available, first come, first served basis; and pretty much at the discretion of the editor. To be assured of consideration for the next newsletter, material must be received by the 25<sup>th</sup> day of the month. I would prefer to have submissions in digital form with text in the form of an ascii file or as text in an email message. Send email to [kb5yiw@arrl.net](mailto:kb5yiw@arrl.net) or snail mail to SARA News, 1307 Lopezville Rd., Socorro, NM 87801. (D. Johnson -ed.)

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